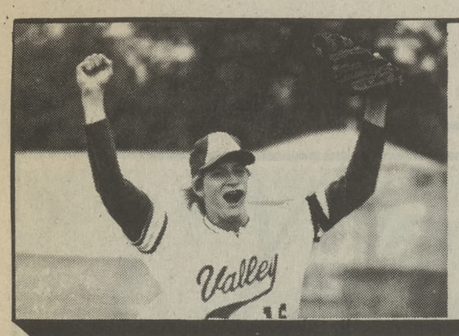
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Baseball victory

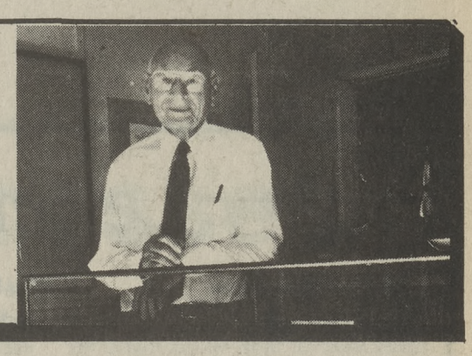
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Parking problems faced by the disabled

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Diamond Jubilee

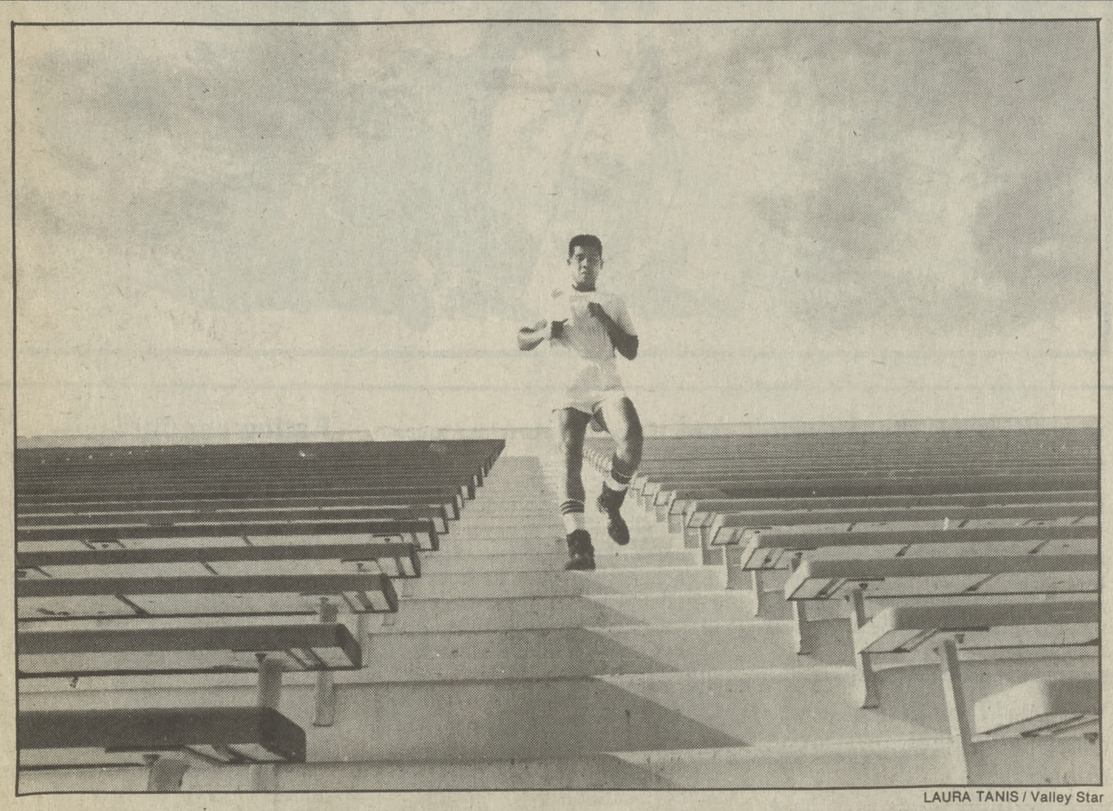
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Valley Star

Los Angeles Valley College

Thursday, April 17, 1986 *Vol. 37, No. 26*



LAURA TANIS / Valley Star

SUNDAY WORKOUT—Los Angeles Fire Department recruit Tom Versales keeps in shape by running up and down the football bleachers at Valley every Sunday.

Valley to observe 'Disabled Awareness'

By KIM JENKINS, News Editor

Disability Awareness Week at Valley is scheduled to commence April 21 with the dedication of a newly constructed wheelchair ramp at Bungalow 1, between 9 and 9:30 a.m. .

George Kopoulos, assistant dean of administrative services, will be the Master of Ceremonies and will introduce President Mary Lee.

Dr. Monroe Richman, president of the L.A. Community College District Board of Trustees, will also be on hand.

The dedication will be the first of two weeks of programs and activities to promote awareness of the diabled, according to Dr. Robert Scott, assistant dean of disabled student programs and services.

The ramp was built by Valley employees with $1000 in materials donated by the Panorama City Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club is an international organization located in 159 countries, with members consisting of business and professional men.

"This is the second ramp the group has paid for," said Kopoulos. "Since bungalows are considered temporary buildings, however, the state would not pay for the ramps and the District didn't have the money.

"So I hustled up the Rotary Club to pay for it."

There are presently 20 bungalows at Valley with ramps, and 44 with out, according to Scott.

Before a disabled person signs up for a class, their counselor should be certain that the class is accessible, said Scott.

If the classroom is inaccessible, the student would be instructed to take a class in another section.

"But we have the right to actually move the class around, if necessary," he added.

"That's part of our services," he said. "We maintain that every student has an equal access and opportunity to get into their classes."

Two weeks of activities are scheduled to inform students and faculty on the ramifications of disabilities.

Following the ramp dedication, a panel discussion is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m. in Monarch Hall.

Students with various disabilities will answer questions on the topic, "So, I'm Disabled—Now Who Else Am I?"

Between 11 a.m. and noon, Dr. Paul Longmore, a program specialist from USC, will explore the topic "Disabled People in America: The Outlook of a New Generation."

Longmore is a victim of cerebral palsy.

Project aiming toward beautifying campus draws criticism

By SUSAN LACHNICHT, Staff Writer

The old saying "beauty is in the eye of the beholder" rings true for a project currenlty underway at Valley, aimed at beautifying the campus. Everyone seems to have a different opinion of the project, from administrators who praise it, to the workers and faculty who question and criticize it, and to students who had never heard of it.

Starting in the Fall 1985 semester, fliers were sent to faculty members asking for imput for the Campus Beautification Project.

Mary Ann Breckell, vice president of administration, was named to head the five-member committee assigned to coordinate the project.

The committee considered the suggestions made by the faculty and formed a three-phase project itinerary.

"I just thought the staff and faculty would like to be a part of the project," said Breckell. "The staff has been hit with the classified layoffs and the March 15 letters. (The project) is a way we can all participate in the college on a positive note."

Phase one of the project has already been completed.

Some of the improvements include trimming of bushes on the sidewalk along the parking areas, cleaning of weeds out of flower beds along the music building and cleaning up of the yard and plant area around the theatre arts building.

Phase two, which is presently underway, has almost been completed with approximately 10 of the 15 proposed projects finished.

Some of the improvements made during phase two include the trimming of shrubs on the perimeter of the campus, planting flowers and bushes around the westside of the student forum, and the construction of a rose garden between the foreign language and administration buildings.

The possibility of a third phase is still up in the air, said Breckell. There are enough project ideas for a third phase, she said, but there may not be enough time to complete them before the end of the semester. If a third phase is planned,she said, it will begin some time in May.

Breckell said she appreciated the generous donations, given by individual faculty members, neighbors of the campus and from memorial funds, which went to financing the beautification project.

However, gardeners and those working on the project are apparently not as appreciative of the project as Breckell.

Mark Lavin, union steward of Local 99 and a veteran gardener of nearly 20 years, feels the gardeners should have been consulted on the ideas of the project before being asked to "blindly follow instructions."

"There's maybe six of us in the gardening department and we're doing the work of 12 people," said Lavin."Plus some projects require planting flowers or bushes which were impossible because they were out of season.

"But I think the whole project is worthwhile in one respect in that it does make the campus look a little better."

According to Dave Ogne, buildings and grounds administrator, morale among the gardners has been high with this project allowing them to be creative and do more than just cut lawns.

However, Vernon Carpenter, another veteran gardener of 20 years said, "I would prefer to maintain the lawns we already have instead of starting so many new projects."

He also added the gardeners are feeling the pressure from the deadlines which came with the project itenerary.

"Adding new projects is fine, but as long as they add them at a slower pace," he said.

Other criticisms the project come from some of the faculty.

"Before (the administration) spends the time and money beautifying the campus, they should supply students with a safe learning enviroment," said Dr. Liz Friedman, professor of chemistry.

"For example," she pointed out, "eroding ceilings in the chemistry labs pose a possible danger. If water starts leaking through the ceiling, it could combine with chemicals in the lab, causing hazardous gases or even an explosion."

Other professors share Friedman's thoughts on improving the interior and then beautifying the exterior.

Steve Saltzman, professor of psychology, had mixed feelings on the subject.

"In a time of fiscal restraint, the project symbollically creates some ambiguous feelings," he said. "With the steady deterioration of the buildings, it seems the buildings should be a first priority."

As far as students are concerned, many are unaware of the beautification project but have always appreciated the beauty of the campus.

"I had no idea there was a specific project underway but have always thought Valley was beautiful with all the flowers and trees," said Pat Ingham, a nursing major.

Another student, Kathy Bilotta, said, "They keep the campus up real nice, especially with the cutbacks in manpower. Unfortunately, I have been able to see the deterioration over the years. It's sad. You can see the effort to maintain the campus, but the shortage of funds and manpower is taking its toll."



LAURA TANIS / Valley Star

HISTORIAN AND HUMANITARIAN—Dr. James Dodson, curator of Valley's historical museum, enjoys studying ancient history. He also lectures and learns a lot about the people he meets. Dodson has been at Valley since 1949.

Perspective

This is another in a series of profiles featuring some of the people who affect the quality of life at Valley College.

Dodson a part of Valley's history

By ELEANORE COUTIN-ROSEN, View Editor

"I sometimes call myself the man who never was, because I'm not supposed to be here," said James Dodson, curator of the Historical Museum at Valley.

"I was born during the funeral services of my father in the same house in which his funeral service was taking place," said Dodson. His mother had been given so many sedatives that the doctor informed her that the baby would most likely be stillborn.

It was not to be and Dodson made the front pages of the newspapers. He remembers one reporter writing, "And so they met on the threshold of eternity—the one coming in, the other going out."

Raised in Clinton, Missouri until the age of 10, Dodson and his mother then moved to what was then the resort community of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"There has been one change since I lived there," said Dodson, his clear eyes sparkling. "It has become one of the country's great military centers."

The Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, and the headquarters of the Continental Air Defense Command all call Colorado Springs home. "In other words," said Dodson, "when Russia declares war, the orders for defense go out from Colorado Springs."

He earned a BA degree at Colorado College, then went to Princeton University for his Masters degree. He received his Doctorate in History from the University of Colorado. Although he enjoys Roman history, Dodson wrote his thesis on Egypt.

Dodson came to California in 1945 and taught at Glendale College. When he heard a new college was going to open, he felt that "I wanted to get in on the ground floor." The college was Valley; the year was 1949.

"I have the distinction not only of having been the first to begin work, but also having been the first to take a sick leave," Dodson said. His clear, articulate voice paused as he remembered those days. His eyes softened.

"I've always had a warm spot in my heart for this college," he said smiling. "It was fun to be in at the beginning because I was the one who assigned numbers to classes, and was instrumental in working out procedures."

Having been at Valley 41 years, Dodson has seen a lot of changes. One bad change he feels is not having annuals. "Twenty years from now, you'll love to look at the pictures of your classmates—only you're not going to have any to look at," he said ruefully.

The buildings at Valley were originally to have been in the Spanish Colonial motif. "To us who call ourselves the '49ers,' the architecture has been a distinct disappointment," said Dodson.

"Unfortunately there was a decision for quantity over quality." Dodson refers to the buildings as "modern 20th century grotesque."

Just before World War II was declared, Dodson had travelled to Germany, Austria and the Dutch frontier. He found it a very unpleasant experience. "I played it safe by taking no pictures," he said.

On another trip that Dodson took, he visited the room where Anne Frank and her family had lived in hiding before being caught by the Nazis and sent to the concentration camps.

"That (room) affected me more than any other place that I was in," he said. "To me, her death was one of the great tragedies of the war. I believe she would have been a brilliant writer. We're all the poorer for her death."

Dodson enjoys lecturing and meeting people—both of which he does a lot. With his wife of 40 years, Ann, they have two daughters, Katherine and Jane.

A cheerful, thoughtful man, Dodson is an achiever. To a discouraged person, he would look them in the eye and say "You keep on dreaming of what you are going to do. Don't give up your dreams. You fix your wagon to a star, pull hard, and you'll get there."

Letters to the Star

Star sensitivity questioned

Editor,

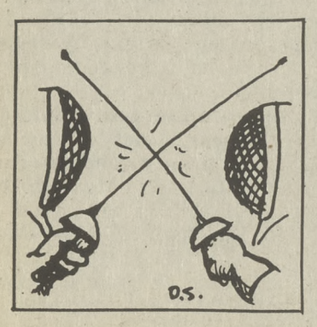
We the members of the LAVC Fencing Club would like to express our disapproval with the Thurs. April 10, Gallery section.

We believe that a paper that is put together by students, and hopefully for students, should focus on the activities of students.

We know that you would agree that it would have been more appropriate if Valley's Fencing Club or Valley's Fencing Class would have been featured instead of a group of fencers who are not directly associated with Valley College.

At a time when everybody seems to be talking about student apathy it seems almost ironic that the *Valley Star*, who in our opinion should make every effort to promote student involvement, did not take a few minutes to contact anyone associated with the Fencing Department for this photo layout.

As students we are constantly reminded that if we do not know something we should ask, however the *Valley Star* seems to follow the motto "If you do not know something, fake it."



Did anyone on the *Valley Star* even know that there were fencing classes at Valley? Did anyone know there was a fencing club? Did the *Valley Star* make any effort to find out if such activities existed on campus?

It was not vanity that motivated us to write this letter rather it was the belief that if students are exposed to the activities on campus, whatever the activity may be, maybe, just maybe, somebody might break away from the aura of apathy that seems to surround the majority of our students and finally get involved.

Sincerely,
Edgar Fregoso
Student and
member of
LAVC Fencing Club

History student addresses Trustees

Dear Trustees,

I am Karen Willson—a History student—and as a student I feel I have a voice that you should hear.

While many of you have been serving on the Board of Trustees, I have been a part of your statistics, the ones you use to delegate money and resources, which in turn help to shape the community colleges. But beginning today, I will remain a statistic no longer.

Your decision to lay off tenured teachers and cut vital programs forces me to turn from looking at books, to looking at you—the Board of Trustees.

When you decided to cut tenured teachers, did you ask students what comprised their educational needs? Were incoming students from high schools or transfer students, or continuing students asked if they no longer felt they needed a broadbased transferable program in history, psychology, or the other targeted disciplines?

No. The Chamber of Commerce—obviously ignorant of the declining need for computer operators, or business management graduates without a Masters—this group of business men decided our future—along with statistics that I feel have been misinterpreted as statistics often are.

I am the product of a healthy, vibrant history program. Because of the exemplary liberal arts education created at Valley College, I have been accepted next fall at UCLA to study history as a junior.

With gifted and superbly qualified professors such as Dr.'s Stack and Freibergs, all my undergraduate requirements have been met.

"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depend on the education of youth."

Our department enrollments are growing in response to more students transferring to Universities and the broadening requirements of these institutions.

Your plan to cut these teachers undermines all the reasons that students attend community colleges. Excellent teachers are what build departments and stability in classes, as well as build enrollments. Don't destroy the excellent academic program you've already built at Valley.

You are *not,* in the words of Ronald Reagan, "subsidizing intellectual curiousity" by retaining these programs. However, you will be destroying the environment for that curiosity if you continue on your present course.

Consider Aristotle's words on education. "All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depend on the education of youth."

"We may be forced to vote in a new Board who will hear our voices. . . ."

Remember your responsibility. Education is not the ability to punch computer keyboards—as an ex-data systems supervisor I can tell you—education is the ability to ask questions. It is the ability to analyze, understand the past critically, make decisions for the future based on that analysis.

Computer operators, dental office managers, middle managers—statistically the demand for people to fill these occupations are declining on the undergraduate level. Without the ability to discern the future garnered by a complete liberal arts education, our vocationally trained students will become little more than robots.

Some say there are three kinds of people in the world, producers, consumers, and critics. If you make decisions based on the Chamber of Commerce's needs, you'll build a fourth class, a society of non-thinkers. I suggest the Board review Huxley's *Brave New World.*

We need thinkers that are able to make educated choices. The Chamber of Commerce's interests are the pursuit of profits and cheap, shortsighted labor. At the basis of their recommendations to you lies a purient self interest.

Rather, ask students what we want. This major decision demands you consult those who will be directly involved.

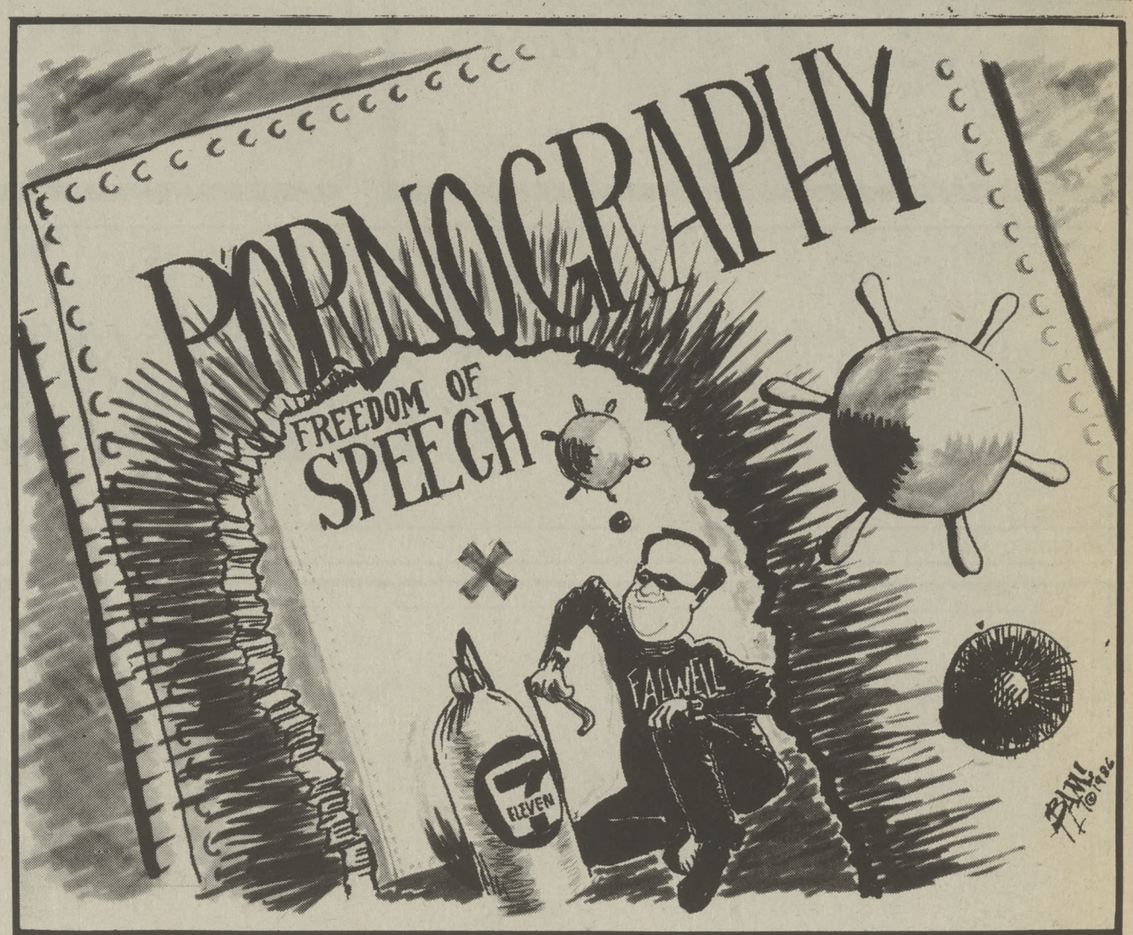
I've received a demanding, critical education by the best teachers available anywhere. Because of their dedication, I'll be moving on to UCLA— but I'll remain a voter in the district.

If this Board does not hear students' voices today— if they fail to ask us— not statistics garnered from unknown sources and the Chamber of Commerce— then you'll hear from us again, when the re-election bell tolls.

"...you'll build a fourth class, a society of non-thinkers."

We may be forced to vote in a New Board who will hear our voices when we cry out for a quality education.

Karen E. Willson
History Student



Thanks to Prof. Hyek

Editor,

Even though I only attended Valley College for one semester at night (Fall '85), I had the privilege of being taught by one of your best instructors.

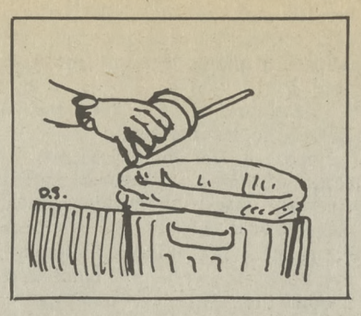
This instructor packed a lot of information into a class. He gave me the entire spectrum of Business I and really seemed to care about making sure we received the proper instruction. He never failed to answer our questions.

The name of the "Star" instructor who did so much for me is Mr. Hyek. I have never had an educator like him. He would look at each student while he lectured. He always gave us good examples that illustrated his points, and always came into the classroom fully prepared.

He maintained a fair system of grading, but above all he managed to make the course even more interesting by retaining a sense of humor.

I feel honored to have been in his class. Thank you for being such a great teacher Mr. Hyek!

Sincerely,
Beverly L.
Blanks-Smith
Former
Valley Student



Eating conditions— for the birds

Editor,

My name is Garry Granger. I'm a student at Los Angeles Valley College. Maybe because I am in a wheelchair, I get to observe things very clearly.

I am concerned about the situation in the cafeteria lunchroom. There is trash all over the floor and all over the tables.

I think we as fellow students ought to be more concerned with our campus and our lunchrooms.

If we don't clean up after ourselves, no one else will. If we leave trash around, birds are attracted to the lunchroom.

Although birds can sometimes be aesthetically pleasing, in the lunch area they tend to create unpleasant eating conditions and besides I don't really need to share my meal with birds.

Due to lack of staff, we as students must take on more responsibilities and help keep our campus clean. Keep in mind, this is our campus and we are not children. So let's act like adults and clean up after ourselves.

Garry Granger
Student

Beware;

California Vehicle Code No. 22.507.8a.—

Parking in a designated "Handicapped only" space

By DONNA RAMOS, Staff Writer

Handicapped parking is a wonderful idea. There should be more spaces available for the disabled than there are. But if these spaces are not clearly marked, they become a handicap to able and disabled drivers alike.

A fews weeks ago I discovered this for myself.

On a cold, dreary, wet night I found it necessary to go to the market.

Fighting my way through the heavy rain, I arrived at my destination, Von's market on San Fernando Road in Burbank.

The parking lot was poorly lit. The rain was falling in sheets, causing my visability to be limited.

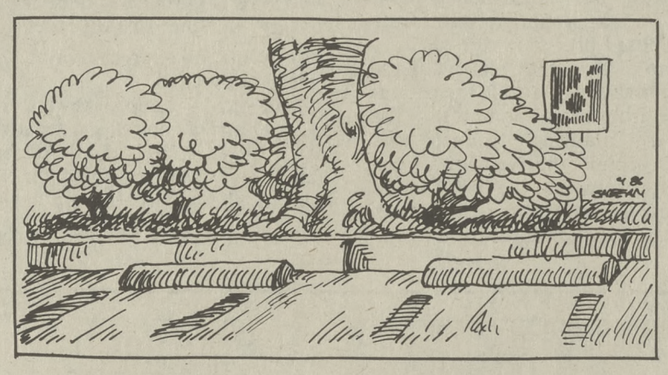
Finding a parking space close to the store, I checked to be sure that this was not a handicapped space.

Seeing no stand-up sign or blue lines on the ground indicating a handicapped space, I pulled my station wagon into the spot.

In less than 10 minutes I had finished my shopping, dashed back through the torrent to my car, and was putting my key in the ignition.

Then I saw it.

A parking ticket was stuck under the windshield wiper.



The ticket was for parking in a handicapped space.

I moved my car out of the spot and came back to check again.

There it was, a faded yellow patch that had at one time indicated handicapped parking.

Rain, darkness, and poor lighting had made the spot appear to be a regular space.

According to the ticket, I was in violation of California Vehicle Code No. 22.507.8a. The penalty for parking in a handicapped place is a $53 fine. This is the most expensive one on the list of parking violations.

Parking on the sidewalk, according to the code No. 225.00f is a $23 fine. If I had parked on the sidewalk, I would have saved money.

This is not fair. Whose fault was it that the spot was not clearly marked? Do the police have the right to ticket cars on private property? Von's parking lot is private property.

After a few calls to the police, it became apparent to me that no one was going to answer my questions.

I did, however, receive answers from the office for the handicapped at Valley College.

The people who have the responsibility of seeing that the parking spaces are well marked are the owners of the property. The police can only ticket on private property with the permission of the owners.

According to the "Site Development Requirements For Handicapped Accessibility, No. 2-7102, "each parking space...shall be identified by a permanently affixed reflectorized sign...displaying the International Symbol for the handicapped. The surface of each spot shall have the symbol in blue paint."

This is the law. Von's was not complying with the law.

If I want to take time from my classes, and maybe spend the entire day waiting for my turn, I can go to court. The other option is to pay the ticket.

It is unfair that I have received a parking ticket and will probably have to pay a fine, when the people who are responsible for seeing that these spaces are clearly marked have no fine to pay.

It is also not fair that the police can give me a ticket for parking in a spot that is not clearly marked.

A word of advice: beware of improperly marked handicapped parking spaces. They may become a handicap to your pocketbook.

Valley Star

Los Angeles Valley College

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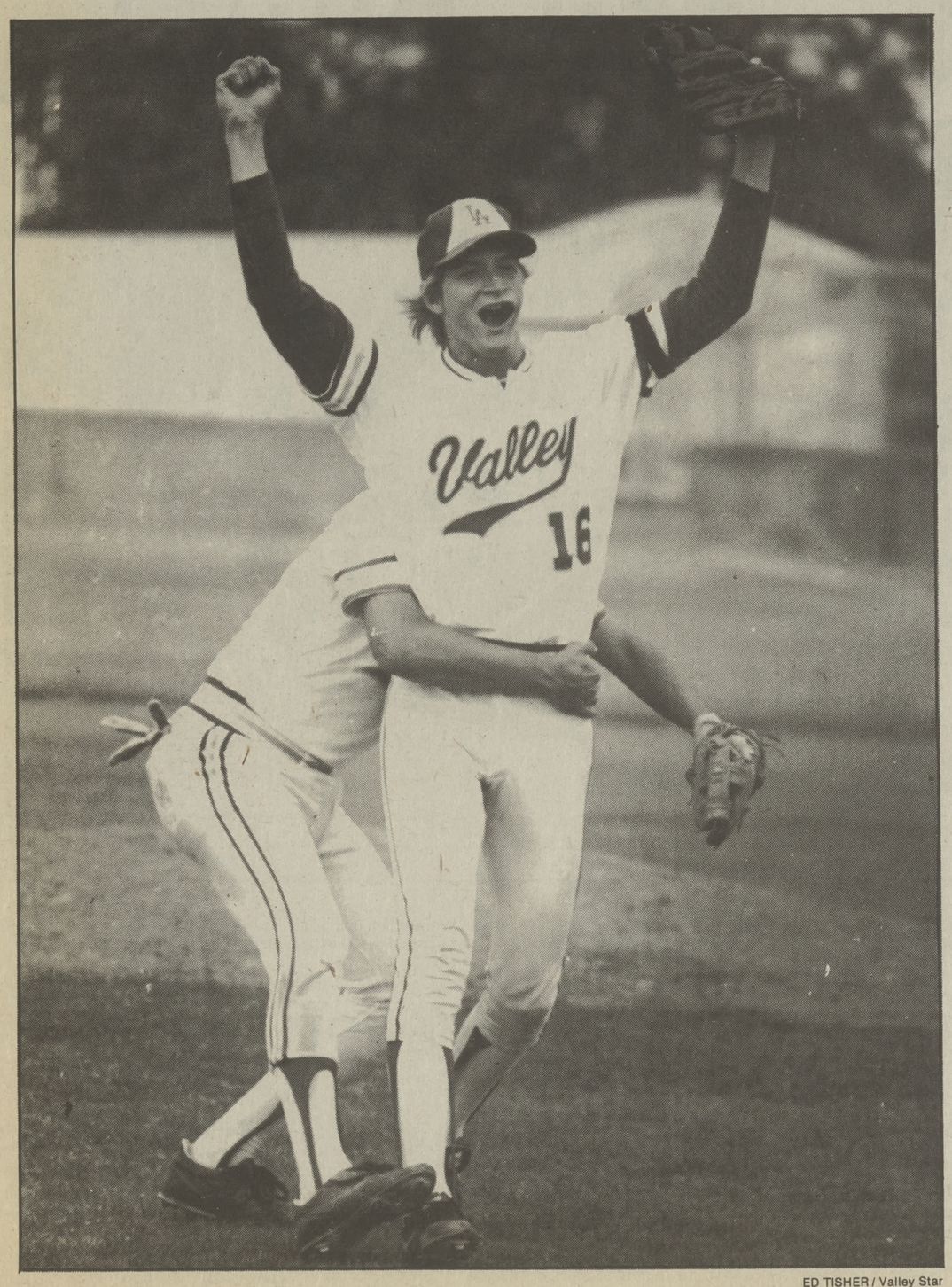
LETTERS

The Valley Star is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, or religious denigrations.

Letters should be signed and, if applicable, should include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented in the Valley Star office, Business Journalism 114, by Monday for the following Thursday.





ED TISHER / Valley Star

THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS—Valley pitcher Dave Cossairt is exuberant after the final out of Saturday's game against West Los Angeles College in which he pitched a two-hit shutout and struck out four in the 7-0 win.

Monarch successes

By KATHY CROUCH, Sports Editor

Look out pro baseball scouts. Keep your eyes open major college coaches.

Valley pitcher Dave Cossairt is hot.

This right-handed sophomore has a 3-0 record with two saves. In his most recent performance, a two hit, 7-0 blanking of West Los Angeles College (WLAC), he retired the last 23 Oilers batters in a row.

Cossairt threw just 84 pitches in a game that saw him strike out four batters as well.

"It's the best game of my life," said Cossairt, who was switched from the team's long-reliever position to the starting rotation a week earlier.

In that start he allowed Mission College just two runs in the Monarchs' 9-5 victory.

For a guy who had not thrown too many pitches prior to the Mission game, he appears to have made the transition from the bullpen with ease.

"I took him from the long relief and made him into a starter and it has been our best week of the season," said Valley Head Coach Scott Muckey.

After four straight wins, the Monarchs have pulled to within two games of Mountain Valley Conference (MVC) leader College of the Canyons (COC).

If Cossairt's success is any indication of the talent housed in Valley's bullpen, the Monarchs my be the team in the conference to catch the Cougars of COC.

This would be quite a feat considering the fact the Cougars were the second ranked team in California last season.

"Talent wise, we match up very well," said Muckey. "We feel like we ought to be able to hold them down. We hit for the average versus their home runs."

As the regular season begins to wind down, Valley will face the Cougars one week from today and again on April 26.

In the interim, the Monarchs have two games against Antelope Valley College (AVC). The first will be a Saturday home game starting at 12 p.m. Valley will then travel to AVC on Tuesday for a 3 p.m. duel.

Muckey believes the Monarchs have to win the remaining games of the season in order to catch front runner COC.

It will be interesting," said Muckey. "We'd like to put pressure on them (COC). We are playing like we did early in the season. We have started to come alive again."

Valley upsets El Camino College

By DONNA RAMOS, Staff Writer

The Valley Women's softball team has taken the name "cardiac kids" and just about engraved it in stone.

No ambulances were needed, but Valley coaches were having heart palpitations anyway as they witnessed their team taking a beating in Friday's game against El Camino College.

The game, which was played at El Camino College, was somewhat distressing for the Monarchs until the 6th inning.

Although Valley ultimately won the contest, 6-4, El Camino gave them a run for their money.

El Camino was ahead 4-1 until the top of the sixth.

"It didn't look good for us," said Valley Head Coach Karen Honey "Unless something happened quick, we were going to lose the game."

Something did happen.

In that inning Valley scored 3 runs to tie the game. Shortstop Irene Quintana and left fielder Lenise Collins both singled to get on base. Then Flo Talamantez got on with a fielders choice, loading the bases with two outs.

First baseman Kathy Crouch came up and hit a triple to drive in all three runners and tie the game at 4-4.

El Camino failed to score in the bottom of the sixth, entering the seventh inning tied.

Valley tacked on 2 more runs in the top of the 7th inning and held El Camino in the bottom of that inning to win 6-4.

"The difference between this game and the game we played against Los Angeles City College (LACC) ," said Honey "was our batters."

Valley lost to LACC last Thursday, 8-6. The game was played at LACC.

"In Thursday's game against LACC, we didn't bat well." said Honey "This game we knew we had to hit well after our last disappointment, and we did.

"It was an all around team effort that caused us to win."said Honey

Honey stressed how important it was for every member of the team to give their all in order to come out winners.

"The pitching was important also." said Honey

Valley starter Faith Rezo gave up 6 hits, 5 walks and allowed 3 earned runs in the Monarch victory.

"I felt really happy for all of us when we won this game." said Honey "It tells me a lot about a team when they start out behind and still turn out to be the winners. It is not easy to win when that happens. This team is great."



Sportsline by KATHY CROUCH

NBA playoff system a farce, integrity missing in pros

When I took the job of sports editor for this paper I made a promise to myself that I would never impose my political views on the readers of my columns, but the time has come for me to recall that vow.

It may have been said before, but I have to say it—I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore.

It's time to circulate petitions, write to congressmen, and start waving the banners of justice and fair play.

To what, dear readers, do you owe this stampede of patriotism and verbal barrage?

Well, it's like this. As any half interested professional basketball fan knows, the National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs begin today.

As if it's any surprise, last year's top contenders, Los Angeles and Boston, are back in the post-season action this year.

So what, right?

Right, but did you know that the Lakers and the Celtics are just two of 16, count 'em 16 teams, that will enter the first round of the playoffs tonight?

Allow me to indulge in some playoff trivia, if you will. I begin with the Western Conference, which includes the Pacific and Midwest divisions. The Midwest division contains six teams—Houston, Denver, Dallas, Utah, Sacramento, and San Antonio. Every one of them is in the playoffs.

They're the only division that comes close to having an actual standings race. Sixth place San Antonio is *only* 16 games behind division leading Houston.

Shucks, the New Jersey Nets are only 28 games out of reach of the Boston Celtics, who won the Atlantic division of the Eastern Conference.

And as if to prove that it really doesn't take a winning season to have a chance at the World Championship title, the Chicago (in the pits) Bulls won 30 games and lost 52, winding up their season with a .366 winning percentage. Poor guys, they have to face Boston in the first round. See 'ya.

A team could actually play 26 games before winning the NBA crown, within the playoff system.

That's enough games for the Portland Trail Blazers to catch the Lakers in the Pacific division. The Blazers are just 22 games out.

I guess that's why they call it the 'second season.' The first 82 games don't even matter. Consider the seven teams, of the 23 total in the NBA, that didn't make it into the playoffs. They can spend the summer with the satisfaction of having the first seven draft picks in the off-season.

This non-competitive system is a travesty of sportsmanship. Let's get rid of the ridiculously large pool of playoff spots and bring some respectability back to the sport of basketball.

I offer some solutions. First, switch Sacramento, which is in the Midwest divison of the Western conference, and Phoenix, a Pacific divison resident. That will put everybody in the right neighborhoods.

From there I propose the solution adopted by Major League Baseball, a playoff series between the two divisions in each conference.

The winner of the Pacific divison meets the winner of the Midwest division for the Western Conference crown. The winner of the Atlantic division faces the winner of the Central division for the Eastern Conference crown.

I say we put an end to this waste of advertisers money. Put a stop to redundancy. Abolish these outdated ideas.

Take action, sports fans. Write letters, make phone calls. Get involved. Let's change the system before it's too late.

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Van Nuys celebrates 75th Birthday

Reception scheduled for Valley museum

By DONNA RAMOS, Staff Writer

If you were not permitted to serve alcoholic beverages at your dinner party, would you have the feeling the meal was incomplete?

Valley College felt it would.

In honor of the 75th Diamond Jubilee of the city of Van Nuys, Valley had intended to hold a jubilee dinner on campus.

Only one problem presented itself—no alcohol may be served on Valley's grounds.

"People could not even enjoy a glass of wine with their meal." said Dr Mary Lee, president of Valley College."We would have to go through the legislature to have the law changed. The festivities would be over by then."

Though the jubilee dinner has been cancelled, a reception in honor of the anniversary jubilee has been scheduled for May 5 in the Historical Museum on the south end of campus. The reception, which will be open to the public, will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. .

Community involvement in the celebration of the jubilee was done by people responding to the advertisments placed in the local papers and press releases, inviting them to participate in the festivities.

The Blaine Group,a public relations, marketing and advertising agency is the organization which placed the ads and compiled the calender of events.

To date, no other events are scheduled to take place at Valley. Some administrators and faculty members are involved in different activities on their own.

Dr. Mary Lee is a member of various sub-committees. Sam Mayo, professor of history has been working with some of the high school bands participating in the jubilee celebrations.

One of the activities that began the jubilee celebration was the open house held by Valley Medical Industrial Center on March 6.

Swapmeets and bake sales always draw big crowds, and Beverly Manor Convalescent Hospital anticipates a big crowd for their jubilee swapmeet and bake sale on April 12.

Another big crowd will probably be drawn by the carnival atmosphere of the street festival to be held on May 10 at the Erwin Street Mall, in Van Nuys.

Although Valley College does not appear to be highly involved in the Diamond Jubilee celebration, the community of Van Nuys seems to be excited about the 75th birthday of the city.

"The community of Van Nuys has become inundated with a real spirit of celebration for this Diamond Jubilee." said Lisa Morrice, spokeswoman for the Blaine Group.



LARRY TYNAN / Valley Star

CLASSIC CARS—Cruising down Van Nuys Boulevard, the past merges into the present. "The History of Van Nuys on Wheels," a classic car parade down Van Nuys Boulevard takes place on Wednesday, May 14 at night.

Historical museum: longstanding jewel of the Valley

By JULIE BAILEY, Assoc. View Editor

"Isn't it the most incredible place? It just reeks of history. And the jewels, those fantastic jewels. I got goosebumps just being there."

My American friend's blue eyes glittered like diamonds at the memory of her excursion to the Tower of London and the subsequent goosebumps.

"You've been there haven't you. Don't you agree?" Nodding my head in acquiescence, I quickly changed the subject.

The truth of the matter is, although born and raised in England, I have never visited the Tower of London. Gasp!

It is a peculiar human malady that the history of places we don't live and work in hold a much greater fascination for us than the history of our everyday surroundings.

Even if we were interested, self-imposed hectic daily routines rarely afford us the opportunity or time to reflect upon those who inhabited our home soil before us.

Such extraneous musings are usually left to vacation times and vacations take us to other places.

It is therefore not surprising that I have never visited the Tower of London. It is equally not surprising that the majority of students on campus have never visited Valley's Historical Museum.

The museum, located at the south end of the campus facing Burbank Boulevard, officially opened in 1975 and was a brainchild of then college president, Robert Horton.

Housed in one of the many bungalows in the area, it is barely distinguishable from the surrounding classrooms.

There are no marble statues or modern art sculptures to denote its presence—only two green signs bolted to the front and side walls stating "Historical Museum."

The interior is small and unassuming. Yet, despite this modest appearance, the museum has acquired many diverse artifacts used in the everyday lives of past residents of the San Fernando Valley.

One prized acquisition is a Spanish shawl at least 125 to 150 years old. Made of silk and a light tan color, the shawl has no reverse side.

The embroidery work was done in China and the fringe made in the Philippines. The two parts were sent to Spain where they were sewed together and then shipped to the San Fernando Valley.

The shawl is only one of a collection of clothes, which includes 55 dresses. However, due to limited space, only four or five can be exhibited at any one time.

Indian remains of Valley Indians, or similar tribes such as the Chumash people, have found a home in the museum along with a very unique collection of 70 taped interviews of firsthand recollections of Valley old-timers.

Old and rare books dating from the 1850's form an intregal part of the archives. A geology printed in 1848 shows California as a part of Mexico.

Published in 1926, a directory of the San Fernando Valley lists by name and location all people and businesses in the Valley during that year.

It is a book which plays a vital role in one of the services the museum offers to the community—answering reference questions.

"I get quite a few calls asking me if a particular business was operating in the Valley during that year," said Dr. James L. Dodson, the museum's curator.

"We accept any and all reference questions about the San Fernando Valley," he said. A chuckle colored his words as he added, "I will answer any question if I can and if I can't, I'll be evasive."

Being of service to the community is what Dr. Dodson considers the most important function of the museum. Without the continued support of the community, the museum could not operate as it does.

LAVC funds provide the museum with a building, utilities, office supplies and maintenance. Community grants provide the money for the purchasing of artifacts and equipment such as an IBM typewriter, a cassette recorder and display cases.

Since the cutbacks at Valley, private funding has also been necessary to maintain the position of student assistant.

"The student assistant used to be paid by the college," said Dodson. "Now she doesn't get paid by the taxpayers. We kept the position open by going out and getting community funding."

The Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum Association, a non-profit corporation organized the same time as the museum, involves itself in much of the work necessary to generate this community support.

"We must have such a support group," said Dodson. "It is essential for the museum."

Members of the society come from all walks of life although none are students from Valley.

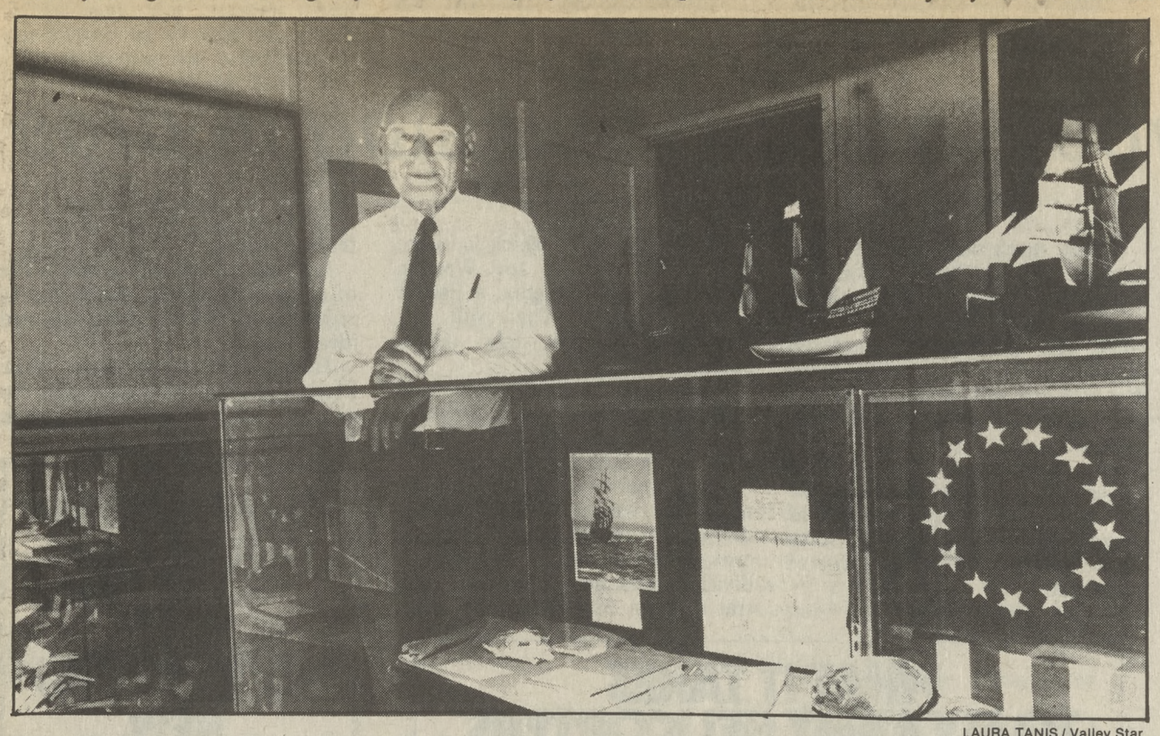
The museum puts on free lectures given by outside speakers for the association during the course of each year.

These lectures are all connected in some way to the San Fernando Valley, with topics ranging from earthquakes to the early pioneers.

Recently, along with the historical society meetings and lectures, the museum has also provided a meeting place for the committee organizing the 75th jubilee celebration for the city of Van Nuys.

"The committee is organizing some sort of tour," said Dodson, "and the museum would be one of the stopping points."

Life is full of ironic little twists. It might happen that an English tourist will discover Valley's historical museum long before the majority of the students. Just like my American friend discovered the Tower of London before me.



LAURA TANIS / Valley Star

KEEPER OF THE PAST—Museum curator, Dr. James L. Dodson, with a few of the many artifacts on display at Valley's Historical Museum. The museum is a featured part of Van Nuys jubilee celebrations.

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Valley Star Classified Ads will be discontinued beginning Fall '86.

There are three more issues until summer break: April 24, May 1, and May 8. Deadlines will remain at 4 p.m. the Friday before each publication. All ads must be prepaid. Checks should be made out to L.A.V.C.

No phone orders. Ads may be mailed or brought to the Valley Star newsroom, Business Journalism Bldg., Room 114, Valley College, 5800 Fulton Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91401.

Keep your campus clean! *Be part of the solution, not part of the problem.*